

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00
FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04
TRSE-00 ACDA-10 IO-14 NRC-07 /137 W
-----101809Z 022198 /44

P R 101725Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8963
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 09832

USEEC

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN ENERGY PROGRAM: CABINET MAKES NO
CHANGES

REF: (A) BONN 8586, (B) BONN A-125

1. ON JUNE 8 THE FEDERAL CABINET COMPLETED ITS
DELIBERATIONS ON THE GERMAN ENERGY PROGRAM. AT THE SAME
TIME, IT ISSUED THE GOVERNMENT'S ANSWERS TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT COALITION
PARTIES AND THE OPPOSITION ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF
GERMAN ENERGY POLICY. THE ANSWERS ARE CONTAINED IN A
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150 PAGE DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BE POUCHED TO EUR/CE:
CASAGRANDE.

2. THE GOVERNMENT MADE NO ESSENTIAL CHANGES IN THE
POLICY WHICH WAS OUTLINED IN MARCH IN THE DRAFT OF THE
SECOND REVISION OF THE GERMAN ENERGY PROGRAM (REF B).
THAT POLICY STILL INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING MAIN

PRINCIPLES: (A) THE POLICY OF REDUCED DEPENDENCE ON OIL MUST BE CONTINUED; (B) THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY MUST BE CONTINUED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR GROWTH, THE COVERING OF ENERGY DEMAND, AND IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE USE OF OTHER ENERGY SOURCES; (C) THE GROWTH OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION MUST BE REDUCED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THROUGH ENERGY SAVINGS AND RATIONAL ENERGY USE; (D) DOMESTIC SOURCES OF ENERGY, IN PARTICULAR COAL, SHOULD RECEIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AND SPECIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO MAXIMIZE THEIR USAGE; (E) THE RISKS OF DEPENDENCE UPON IMPORTED ENERGY SHOULD BE REDUCED THROUGH A BROADENING OF SUPPLIERS BY MEANS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND AGREEMENTS.

3. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE CABINET MEETING, THE FEDERAL PRESS SPOKESMAN HIGHLIGHTED TWO ELEMENTS OF THE CABINET DELIBERATIONS. FIRST, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO CONSERVATION MEASURES. A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE FALL WHEN THE SECOND REVISION OF THE ENERGY PROGRAM IS FORMALLY RELEASED. SECONDLY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT CHANGED ITS TARGET OF 30,000 MW OF INSTALLED NUCLEAR CAPACITY BY 1985. IN A DEPARTURE FROM THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT POSITION, HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE 30,000 FIGURE REPRESENTS ONLY THE "DESIRED" LEVEL OF CAPACITY AND NOT NECESSARILY A REALISTIC OR ATTAINABLE ONE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER INTENDED THAT ITS PREVIOUS TARGETS FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY

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BE CONSTRUED AS REALISTIC OR ATTAINABLE, SINCE THE

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DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER CAPACITY DEPENDS LARGELY UPON
GERMAN INDUSTRY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERN-
MENT, SINCE IT IS NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING
NUCLEAR (OR COAL) POWER PLANTS, CANNOT BE EXPECTED
TO SET SPECIFIC TARGETS FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH
SECTOR TO GERMAN ENERGY REQUIREMENTS. IN DISCUSSING
THE IMPORTANCE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED
THAT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF
GERMANY'S NUCLEAR CAPACITY SINCE THE COMPREHENSIVE
SAVINGS PROGRAM WOULD ONLY HAVE A LONG TERM IMPACT AND
SINCE THE MORE EXOTIC SOURCES OF ENERGY (SOLAR, WIND
AND THERMAL) WOULD PROVIDE ONLY ONE PERCENT OF GERMANY'S
NEEDS BY THE MID-1980'S.

4. COMMENT: THE RELEASE OF THE ANSWERS TO THE PARLIA-
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MENTARY QUESTIONS NOW SETS THE STAGE FOR THE BUNDESTAG
DEBATE ON JUNE 15. THE COALITION FINDS ITSELF IN THE
UNHAPPY POSITION OF HAVING MORE OPPOSITION IN ITS OWN
PARTY THAN IN THE CDU/CSU ON THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR
ENERGY. EVEN IF THE LEFT WING OF THE SPD CHOOSES TO
MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS IN THE NUCLEAR
FIELD, WE SEE LITTLE PROSPECT THAT THE GERMANY ENERGY
PROGRAM, AS OUTLINED IN MARCH AND REAFFIRMED BY THE
CABINET ON JUNE 8, WILL BE CHANGED. IN FACT, THE
WHOLE PURPOSE OF THE DEBATE, IN THE WORDS OF A FONMIN
SOURCE, IS NOT TO CHANGE THE PROGRAM BUT TO SOLIDIFY
SUPPORT BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. WITH THIS
IN MIND, THE "GUIDELINES AND BASIC DATA OF THE SECOND
REVISION OF THE GERMAN ENERGY PROGRAM", REPORTED REF B,
REMAINS THE VALID POLICY DOCUMENT FOR THE GERMAN ENERGY

SECTOR.
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